

Atty. Docket NO. YOR920000440US1  
(590.024)

Claims 18, 10-30 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1 and 12 have been rewritten. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.

Claims 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are hereby respectfully requested. In order to expedite prosecution and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicants have rewritten Claim 23 in independent form and to recite a "bend radius" rather than a "bending radius", thus now obviating the rejection. Otherwise, the rejection is not understood as the application provides that "[i]f waveguides are used, very small bending radii should be attainable (less than the 2.5mm previously considered for fibers) so that the optical coupler could be shortened, thereby conserving space." (Page 9, lines 8-10)

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-15, 22 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) in view of Zhang et al. ("Zhang"). Claims 7, 11, 20, 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Zhang and in further view of Ota et al. ("Ota"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to indicate that the recited "at least one bending element" has a fully intact buffer layer and includes a bending radius of less than about 2.5 mm. Simply, such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Generally, the aforementioned feature is discussed in the instant specification with relation to illustrative and non-restrictive embodiments of the present invention, in

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embodiments relating to optoelectronic fibers (see, e.g., Page 7, lines 7-9) and is believed to represent a physical characteristic that is simply unattainable by way of conventional arrangements and processes, including those disclosed in the applied art.

By way of example, Zhang teaches cutting through the jacket or buffer layer, splicing in high NA fiber, and removing the buffer layer from the high NA fiber in the bend region. Zhang simply cannot be utilized to obtain a "fully intact buffer layer". The claims as amended now more clearly reflect a physical characteristic that is not attainable by the arrangements and processes disclosed in the applied art. Turning to Ota, it is respectfully submitted that "modifying Zhang in view of Ota" would not result in the claimed invention. As noted in a previous Amendment, Ota does not at all contemplate a structure having a small bend radius. In fact, Ota appears to contemplate quite the opposite, that is, configuring their structure and bend radius to be large enough so as to reduce the stresses to be induced in the disclosed fiber.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 12, and 23 are fully distinguishable over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from Claims 1, 12, and 23 it is thus also submitted that Claims 2-8, 10-22 and 24-30 are also allowable at this juncture.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Zhang. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is hereby respectfully requested. As stated above, Claim 16 is believed to be allowable by virtue of dependence from Claims 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that nothing associated with the 103 rejection against Claim 16 can detract from such allowability.

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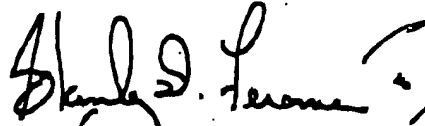
Claims 17-19 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

It is respectfully submitted that these claims are already allowable by virtue of dependence from what is believed to be an allowable independent Claim 12.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-8 and 10-30, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS****In the Claims:**

**Claims 1, 12 and 23 are rewritten as follows:**

**--1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for guiding at least one optical path for an optoelectronic transceiver, said apparatus comprising:**

**an input interface;**

**an output interface; and**

**at least one bent element having a buffer layer being disposed between said input and output interfaces;**

**said at least one bent element being adapted to provide at least one optical path;**

**said at least one bent element being adapted to avoid premature mechanical failure;**

**wherein said at least one bent element has a fully intact buffer layer and includes a bending radius of less than about 2.5 mm.--**

**--12. (Twice Amended) A method of forming apparatus for guiding at least one optical path for an optoelectronic transceiver, said method comprising the steps of:**

**providing an input interface;**

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providing an output interface; and

disposing at least one bent element having a buffer layer between said input and output interfaces;

adapting said at least one bent element to provide at least one optical path;

adapting said at least one bent element to avoid premature mechanical failure;

wherein said at least one bent element has a fully intact buffer layer and includes a bending radius of less than about 2.5 mm.--

-- 23. (Amended) [The method according to Claim 22, wherein said step of providing at least one waveguide comprises etching at least one waveguide from at least one glass sheet.] A method of forming apparatus for guiding at least one optical path for an optoelectronic transceiver, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an input interface;

providing an output interface; and

providing at least one waveguide between said input and output interfaces,

wherein said at least one waveguide is etched from at least one glass sheet;

adapting said at least one waveguide to provide at least one optical path;

adapting said at least one waveguide to avoid premature mechanical failure;

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wherein said at least one waveguide includes a bend radius of less than about 2.5

mm.--